other officer authorised in that behalf, the necessity for the accounts being taken to the offices could be dispensed with. Orders should be issued accordingly.

In conclusion, the member suggested that orders should be sent to the Revenue authorities to issue to retail tobacco merchants weights similar to those used in tobacco bankshalls where a pound was equivalent to 38 13/16 tolas. The pound weights which were used by the retail merchants were equivalent to 40 tolas. The anomaly should be removed at an early date and the weights made uniform.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Easvaramurthia Pillai. Some of the points that you have mentioned, as you yourself said, must be now before the Law's Delays Commissioner and you may expect that some remedies for them may be suggested in the report which he will be sending up to the Government.

In regard to commercial education, I take it that you know that subjects like Commercial practice, Book-keeping, Typewriting and Office correspondence, are already optional subjects for the English School Leaving Certificate Examination. Government are not unaware of the fact that commercial education and training are necessary and they have also taken some measures to bring such instruction and training within the reach of people in Travancore. There is a Government Commercial School at Alleppey. So, you see that Government are doing something in the matter.

As regards uniform standard of weights, as a matter of fact, it has been prescribed and every licensee has been told that he should use only standard weights. But there seems to be some difficulty in the retail dealers getting their weights properly stamped by the Revenue authorities. Government will look into the matter and pass orders soon.

The other points that you have raised will receive due consideration.

52. Concessions to the Mercantile Community.

MR. SIVATHANU PILLAI CHOCKALINGOM PILLAI (*Municipal Council, Colachel*) speaking in Malayalam, said that one of the important profitable professions in the country was commerce. The people engaged in that profession provided a large and growing body of poor men with work. Unlike in Travancore, the mercantile and trading interests in Japan and the European countries obtained substantial help from the Governments of those countries. The member made the following suggestions for the improvement of trade in Travancore:—

(i) Piers should be constructed at Colachel and Quilon, which were two important ports in the State.

(ii) Sheds should be constructed with roofs of iron sheets for storing merchandise at the two ports.

(iii) The road leading to the Colachel port should be widened.

(iv) A branch of the State-Aided Bank should be opened at Colachel.

(v) A railway line should be opened for facilitating the transport of commodities to and from the eastern portions of the State.

(vi) A special officer should be appointed to look after the interests of the mercantile community and to make enquiries about the prospects and development of trade.

DEWAN'S REPLY: നിങ്ങൾ സമർപ്പിച്ച നിവേദനത്തിലടങ്ങിയിട്ടുള്ള സംഗതികൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും ആലോചിക്കാം.

[The matters dealt with in your representation will receive the consideration of Government].

53. Public Works Department.

MR. K. I. IDICULLA (*Nominated*) speaking in Malayalam said that the basis of the Road Boards, which were created to render assistance to the Public Works department, should be broadened by the formation of Village Road Boards in every *pakuthi*. With the Village Boards as units, Taluk Boards should be constituted by the representatives of the Village Boards, the District Boards by those of the Taluk Boards and the Central Board by those of the District Boards.

As the hilly parts of the country and the uplands were mostly brought under cultivation and agricultural operations were going on steadily, the loose surface soil and silt washed down by the Pampa and Manimala rivers were steadily filling up the lower portions of the river-beds. That was one of the important causes of the disastrous floods of recent years. The Cochin Harbour works also obstructed the free flow of river water. Accumulation of water in the river basins and back-waters during the rainy season should be avoided by opening a bar at some place near the confluence of the Pampa and Manimala rivers, which would facilitate the discharge of flood water to the sea. Engineers like Rao Bahadur John Kurien were of opinion that in the olden days there was such a bar at Prakkad.

In view of the heavy motor traffic, it was necessary to conduct immediately a comprehensive investigation in order to draw up an estimate for rounding off the sharp curves and dangerous turns in the main roads of the State. The work should be taken up without any loss of time.

Government were sustaining heavy losses by the negligence of the P. W. D. officers. There was as yet no instance of officers having been awarded exemplary punishments for such negligence. It was therefore necessary to formulate a rule under which P. W. D. officers who were in charge of particular works might be made liable for the loss sustained by Government by the careless execution of such works.

DEWAN'S REPLY: നിങ്ങൾ ആദ്യമായി പറഞ്ഞത് ഓരോ പ്രകൃതികളിലും ഓരോ താലൂക്കുകളിലും പ്രത്യേകം പ്രത്യേകം റോഡുബോർഡു വേണമെന്നാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരു സെൻട്രൽബോർഡും ആറു ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട്ബോർഡുകളും ഉണ്ട്. ഈ ബോർഡുകൾതന്നെ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി